New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

Settlement reached in human rights complaint against village (08/07/03)

NB 980

July 3, 2008

FREDERICTON (CNB) - A complaint of marital status discrimination against a village council was recently settled as a result of mediation by the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

As part of the terms of settlement, the parties agreed to release the following information, but the names of the parties are not being released.

The commission received a complaint from one female village councillor alleging that she was being discriminated against on the basis of her marital status. This allegation was the result of a policy adopted by the village council that adversely affected her because of her marital status.

The new policy meant that she would have to pay for a friend to attend as her guest at the annual meeting and Christmas party while those councillors who were married or in an intimate relationship could bring that guest and be reimbursed for the charges.

The commission investigated, and at a recent meeting discussed the complaint and asked commission staff to effect a settlement.

A settlement was reached, and the policy was changed to accommodate the complainant and others similarly affected.

If a settlement had not been reached, the commission could have recommended that the minister responsible for the commission appoint a public board of inquiry to hear the matter. Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Ed Doherty is the minister responsible for the Human Rights Commission.

The commission is pleased that a resolution was reached, noting that any policy that has an adverse impact on council members based on any of the prohibited grounds of discrimination under the *Human Rights Act* can lead to a board of inquiry.

08/07/03

MEDIA CONTACT: Francis Young, human rights officer, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 506-453-2301 or 1-888-471-2233.

08/07/03